



March 22, 2010

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Attorney General of Texas
Office of the Attorney General
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, TX 78711-2548

Dear General Abbott:

You have our support in your challenge to the constitutionality of the health care reform legislation passed by the US House of Representatives last night.

We understand that you are scrutinizing the legislation for constitutional problems, such as whether the mandate requiring all individuals to purchase health insurance coverage violates the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution, and whether special treatment given to certain states in the legislation violates the “fundamental principles of nondiscrimination that are at the heart of the U.S. Constitution.” We applaud and support you in this effort.

As a general policy matter, the health care reform legislation is wrong for our state because it will hurt patients by rationing health care, and hurt taxpayers by raising taxes, massively increasing federal and state spending, and creating a new health care bureaucracy. The most pernicious features of the legislation include the personal health insurance mandate; a requirement for businesses to offer health insurance to all of their employees; significantly expanded eligibility for Medicaid; an excise tax on health insurance plans with relatively high premiums; and, penalties on individuals and businesses that do not purchase or provide health coverage. These changes would place the federal government at the center of our nation’s health care system at the expense of individual choice and liberty, free enterprise, and competition.

Beginning in the 1930s, and accelerating over subsequent decades, the federal government has gained significant influence over matters that should be in the remit of the states; a trend that has had a severe and negative impact in a wide range of areas. The health care reform legislation is just the latest but also the most egregious example of this trend. The legislation will expand the federal government’s role beyond what our nation’s founders envisaged, beyond current federal law, and certainly beyond the limitations imposed by the Tenth Amendment.

By challenging the constitutionality of the legislation, you offer fresh hope that Texans can be protected from this damaging legislation and that the framework of the US Constitution may be restored.

We thank you for your efforts, and for your service to the great State of Texas.

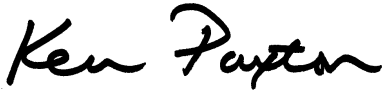
Sincerely,



State Representative Wayne Christian
House District 9, Center



State Representative Linda Harper-Brown
House District 105, Irving



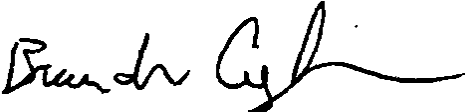
State Representative Ken Paxton
House District 70, McKinney



State Representative Leo Berman
House District 6, Tyler



State Representative Warren Chisum
House District 88, Pampa



State Representative Brandon Creighton
House District 16, Conroe



State Representative Dan Flynn
House District 2, Van



State Representative Bryan Hughes
House District 5, Mineola



State Representative Phil King
House District 61, Weatherford



State Representative Jodie Laubenberg
House District 89, Parker



State Representative Geanie Morrison
House District 30, Victoria



State Representative Tan Parker
House District 63, Flower Mound



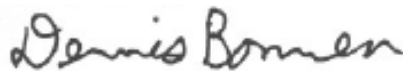
State Representative Larry Taylor
House District 24, Friendswood



State Representative Charles "Doc" Anderson
House District 56, Waco



State Representative Jimmy Don Aycock
House District 54, Killeen



State Representative Dennis Bonnen
House District 25, Angleton



State Representative Betty Brown
House District 4, Terrell



State Representative Angie Chen Button
House District 112, Garland



State Representative Bill Callegari
House District 132, Callegari



State Representative Tom Craddick
House District 82, Midland



State Representative John Davis
House District 129, Houston



State Representative Joe Driver
House District 113, Garland



State Senator Kevin Eltife
Senate District 1, Tyler



State Senator Craig Estes
Senate District 30, Wichita Falls



State Representative Alan Fletcher
House District 130, Tomball



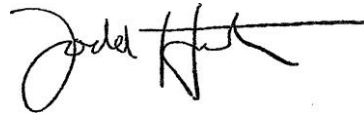
State Representative Kelly Hancock
House District 91, North Richland Hills



State Representative Patricia Harless
House District 126, Spring



State Senator Joan Huffman
Senate District 17, Houston



State Representative Todd Hunter
House District 32, Corpus Christi



State Representative Jim Jackson
House District 115, Carrollton



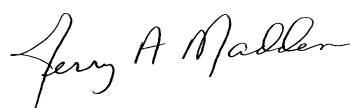
State Senator Mike Jackson
Senate District 11, La Porte



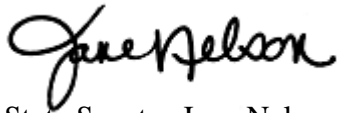
State Representative Tim Kleinschmidt
House District 17, Lexington



State Representative Lois Kolkhorst
House District 13, Brenham



State Representative Jerry Madden
House District 67, Richardson



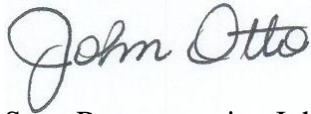
State Senator Jane Nelson
Senate District 12, Lewisville



State Senator Robert Nichols
Senate District 3, Jacksonville



State Representative Rob Orr
House District 58, Burleson



State Representative John Otto
House District 18, Dayton



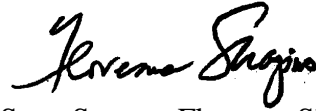
State Senator Dan Patrick
Senate District 7, Houston



State Representative Debbie Riddle
House District 150, Tomball



State Senator Kel Seliger
Senate District 31, Amarillo



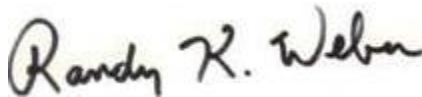
State Senator Florence Shapiro
Senate District 8, Plano



State Representative Mark Shelton
House District 97, Fort Worth



State Representative Vicki Truitt
House District 98, Keller



State Representative Randy Weber
House District 29, Pearland



State Senator Jeff Wentworth
Senate District 25, San Antonio

State Senator Tommy Williams
Senate District 4, The Woodlands



State Representative Beverly Woolley
House District 136, Houston



State Representative John Zerwas
House District 28, Richmond